

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03236 301105Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DLOS-07 COA-02

ACDA-19 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /144 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3548

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

SECDEF

USUN NEW YORK 1039

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TUK

SUBJECT: GREEK/TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. I SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR VLACHOS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY, THIS MORNING ABOUT AEGEAN SITUATION. HE TOLD ME GOG OFFICIALLY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF PROSPECTIVE THRKISH OPERATIONS DESCRIBED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. HE ADDED THAT BASED ON 1958 AGREEMENT GOT HAD OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY CONTINENTAL SHELF STATE, I.E. GREECE, OF ANY SEISMIC OR OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES IN AREA WHICH SO FAR GOT HAS NOT DONE. HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT GOT HAD NOT INTERPRETED GREEK NOTE OF MAY 24 AS
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03236 301105Z

POSITIVE RESPONSE TO ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO BEGIN TALKING.

2. MY IMPRESSION FROM HIS REMARKS IS THAT GREEK MILITARY ARE CAREFULLY MONITORING SITUATION AND WILL MAKE DECISION CONCERNING ANY REACTION TO LATEST TURKISH MOVES, PRESUMABLY ON BASIS OF VARIOUS MEETINGS WE KNOW GREEK MILITARY HAVE HELD WHERE THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE PLANNING FOR SUCH A CONTINGENCY.

3. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO INDICATE THAT WE WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT OF SITUATION ON NATO AND TO REPEAT POINT I HAD MADE PREVIOUSLY TO VARIOUS SENIOR GREEK OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FONMIN TETENES, THAT WE HOPED THROUGH TALKS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY ISSUES COULD BE PEACEFULLY SETTLED. I MENTIONED THAT FORTHCOMING OTTAWA NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING OFFERED PROSPECTS FOR SUCH TALKS. MEANWHILE, I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BOTH PARTIES WOULD AVOID STEPS WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE PROBLEM AND RAISE EMOTIONAL LEVEL. I SAID I WAS SURE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE SPEAKING IN SAME VEIN TO TURKS.

4. GREEK LANGUAGE PRESS TODAY HAS TOTAL BLACKOUT ON ANY COVERAGE OF AEGEAN PROBLEM. AT SAME TIME BOTH BBC AND DEUTSCHE WELLE, TO WHICH MANY GREEKS LISTEN DAILY, HAVE APPARENTLY PLAYED UP SITUATION BY REPORTING TURKISH MOVES AS DESCRIBED IN WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND ASSERTING GREEK MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES IN STATE OF ALERT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MILITARY PLANS, SEISMIC DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS03236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740136-0042
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974059/aaaaahei.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK/TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
To: STATE ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005